

Hawaii MARINE

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May 31, 2001

New SecNav appointed

Navy Wire Service
Press Release

WASHINGTON — Gordon R. England officially became the 72nd Secretary of the Navy May 24 after he took the oath of office in the Pentagon following his Senate confirmation.

Nominated by President Bush on Apr. 24, England brings more than 30 years of experience as a leader in the defense and technology industries to his new duties as leader of the Navy/Marine Corps Team.

Prior to his nomination as Secretary of the Navy, England served as executive vice president of General Dynamics since 1997.

England outlined four key areas that he would address as Navy Secretary.

“My agenda is to substantially improve our combat capability, enrich the lives of our people, swiftly incorporate technology across our total operation, and dramatically improve our business practices,” England said in hearings before the Senate Armed Service Committee chaired by Sen. John Warner of Virginia, himself a former Navy Secretary.

“Each of these goals is interrelated, so implementation will be systematic rather than piecemeal. These efforts will be difficult and challenging and the support of this committee will be essential,” England continued.

In his opening remarks, England expressed his appreciation to the president and to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld for the opportunity to serve the nation and its Sailors and Marines. He stated his full support for the effort that the President and Secretary of Defense have embarked upon to build a military more relevant to the threats and opportunities of the 21st Century. England began his business career as an engineer, working on the Gemini Space Program that paved the way for the manned flight to the moon in the 1960s and ’70s. During his career, Mr. England served as president of General Dynamics aircraft division in Fort Worth and as president of General Dynamics land systems division.

Military Appreciation Week luncheon honors outstanding individuals

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

More than 500 active duty servicemembers, community leaders and retired military participated in the 16th Annual Military Appreciation Week Luncheon on May 23, at the Coral Ballroom in the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

The luncheon honored those servicemembers, military retirees and local civilians who volunteered to improve the local community, or the lives of servicemembers and their families in Hawaii, by donating their time to worthy causes.

The annual luncheon was established in 1985 by The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii to recognize and thank members of the United States Armed Forces for helping make Hawaii a safer and better place.

Each year the luncheon is hosted by a different branch of service, and this year that responsibility fell on the shoulders of the Marine Corps.

Local businesses Alexander and Baldwin Incorporated, Matson, and First Hawaiian Bank helped sponsor the event that took time



Air Force Staff Sgt. Howard Feinstein

Four Hawaii Marines stand before a crowd, during a speech by Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, commander, Marine Forces Pacific, at the 16th Annual Military Appreciation Week Luncheon on May 23, at the Coral Ballroom in the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

to recognize the role the military plays in the Hawaiian community.

Donald G. Horner, vice chairman of First Hawaiian Bank, and W. Allen Doane, president and chief executive officer of Alexander

and Baldwin, Inc., shared the stage together, and took time during their speeches to recognize members from each branch of service who made a positive impact on the community over the last year.

Military pet owners to benefit from quarantine fee reduction

Chief Petty Officer Douglas R. K. Holl
U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs Office

Military families can now benefit from a change to Hawaii’s quarantine fee structure affecting all pets entering Hawaii between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001.

They are now entitled to a pet quarantine fee reduction provided by the state of Hawaii.

The fee reduction, implemented May 7, was made possible by a \$500,000 General Fund appropria-

tion by the 2000 Hawaii Legislature.

Governor Ben Cayetano signed the appropriation into law on June 22, 2000.

During the 2000 Hawaii Legislative session, the Pacific Command worked closely with local military service associations, business leaders and the Hawaii state legislature to provide a quarantine fee reduction to civilian and military pet owners.

The effort to reduce the fees rose out of military servicemember complaints about the 1998 fee in-

crease in the 30-day quarantine from \$299 to \$655. Reducing the pet quarantine fees became a major quality of life issue for the U.S. Pacific Command.

U.S. Pacific Command has worked closely with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Animal Quarantine Station to develop a tiered reimbursement plan that refunds or deducts \$220 from the current quarantine fee for E-1 to E-6 service members and \$120 for E7 to O-3 service members. Servicemembers whose pets enter quarantine between the May imple-

mentation date and June 30 may have their fee automatically reduced by the Animal Quarantine Branch.

Servicemembers who don’t receive an automatic reduction can file the HDOA Application for Animal Quarantine Refund form for reimbursement.

These forms can be obtained by fax or through the HDOA website at www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/ai_aq_s_info.htm.

The Application for Animal Quarantine Refund will contain the following information:

- Owner’s name, address, social security number and telephone number
- Grade of active duty military animal owner; and
- A copy of the animal’s quarantine payment receipt; or
- Animal’s electronic microchip number; or
- Animal’s entry number and name

For more information on the quarantine fee refund check the HDOA website or contact the Hawaii Animal Quarantine Branch at (808) 483-7151.

Stamp of approval



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Lieutenant Gen. Frank Libutti, commander, Marine Forces Pacific, unveils the latest tribute to veterans made by the U.S. Postal Service. The Veterans Stamp was unveiled at the Vietnam Veterans Candlelight ceremony Sunday. For more on Memorial Day activities, see page A-3.

President calls for innovators

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — American military might must draw on new technologies and strategies in the 21st Century, but those forces will only be used in accordance with bedrock American values, said President Bush during commencement exercises at the Naval Academy May 25.

“We must build forces based upon the revolutionary advances in the technology of war that will allow us to keep

the peace by redefining war on our terms,” Bush said in Annapolis, Md.

Bush also told the new ensigns and Marine second lieutenants that he is committed to rewarding visionary thinking.

Bush said he is committed to building a future force that is defined less by size and more by mobility and swiftness.

That force will be easier to deploy and sustain and relies heavily on U.S. advantages in stealth, precision weaponry and information technolo-

gies. He forecast that the president in 2016 may call upon Aegis destroyers to defend continents from ballistic missile attacks or modified Trident submarines carrying hundreds of next generation smart cruise missiles or agile Marine task forces ready to deploy with far greater speed, operational reach and precision.

“Building tomorrow’s force will not be easy,” he said. “Changing the direction of our military is like changing the

See **PRESIDENT**, A-11

MCBH NEWS
BRIEFS

YOUTH SOCCER COACHES
NEEDED

The MCB Hawaii Youth Sports organization needs five coaches for the upcoming soccer season.

Interested individuals may contact Clark Abbey at 254-7611 to volunteer.

ALL-HANDS A-76 BRIEF

An All-Hands A-76 Study brief for all civilian MCB Hawaii employes is scheduled June 21 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Base Theater.

For more information, call the Business Management Hotline at 257-3188, or logon to the MCB Hawaii homepage at www-mcbh.usmc.mil.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER
GAMES

Special Olympics athletes and coaches from all over Hawaii will compete in the 33rd Annual Special Olympics Summer Games Memorial Day Weekend at Rainbow Stadium at the University of Hawaii.

Opening ceremonies featuring a parade of athletes carrying the “Flame of Hope” will begin Friday at 6 p.m. For more information, call Noreen Conlin at 528-0881.

The Special Olympics Summer Games organization is also actively seeking one senior enlisted Marine, Sailor, Soldier or Airman to help coordinate volunteers.

He or she must be able to take charge and handle and coordinate multiple tasks, and must be available the entire Memorial Day weekend. If interested, contact Dan Epstein at 780-1415.

RECON MARINES WANTED

Currently 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is in search of Marines to fill its ranks.

Marines of all military occupational specialties are welcome, but must be willing to change their current MOS to one in the infantry or intelligence occupational fields.

Any Marines (enlisted or officer) leaving active duty status and desiring to enter the reserves should contact Staff Sgt. Gerald Rohn at 257-2758 or 257-1077 ext. 221.

HABILITAT NEEDS HELP

Habilitat, a non-profit, non-sectarian substance abuse treatment program, is seeking donations of camouflage utility trousers for their work crews. For information about making individual or unit donations, contact Staff Sgt. Sean Flanary at 257-8824.

JAPANESE WIVES CLUB

The Japanese Wives club meets once a month at the Armed Services YMCA aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

For more information, call Hiroko Hagen at 239-2308.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Base Emergency | 257-9111 |
| MPD | 257-7114 |
| Crisis Hotline | 521-4555 |
| Child Protective Services | 832-5300 |
| Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO | 257-8852 |

Hawaii MARINE

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Public Affairs Chief
Press Chief
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Maj. Chris Hughes
Gunnery Sgt. Rhys A. Evans
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Anderson Hall shows appreciaition

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

More than 1,500 MCB Hawaii service-members and civilian employees enjoyed the Anderson Mess Hall’s Civilian Appreciation Luncheon May 23.

The meal was held in honor of the civilian employees aboard MCB Hawaii and the hard work they do to help service-members here.

The diners enjoyed a meal of baked fish, shrimp scampi, steamship round and an assortment of side dishes designed for the most distinguished palate.

“We have a lot of civilians,” said Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. Sekeres, mess hall manager. “We owe them a debt of gratitude for all the support they give our Marines and Sailors.”

The meal provided for the more than 1,500 diners was prepared by only 14 appreciative Marines in the chow hall.

“It is good that we are doing this for the civilians,” said Lance Cpl. Lance Dawkins, a food service specialist with Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii. “The civilian employees make a great contribution to the K-Bay community.”



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Lance Iwami, an engineer with facilities, surveys his selections as he is served generous portions of a hearty meal by a Marine working at Anderson Hall during the civilian appreciation luncheon.

The civilians also appreciated the effort put forth by the Marines to provide them with their meal.

“The food was great and I really appreciate the gesture being made with this luncheon,” said Martha Gonzalez, a civilian

employee aboard K-Bay.

Civilian employees fill many jobs and billets aboard MCB Hawaii, and the Staff of Anderson Hall fittingly honored them for their contributions with the civilian appreciation luncheon.

Milestones



Gary M. Chun
MCAF, electronic mechanic
20 years of service



Mark J. Graydon
MCAF, air traffic control specialist
10 years of service



Terry M. Hai-Sayre
MCAF, air traffic control specialist
15 years of service



Jeanne M. Jacobs
MCAF, commanding officer’s secretary
15 years of service



John W. Kries
MCAF, electronic mechanic supervisor
25 years of service



Phillip J. Ruprecht
MCAF, electronic technician
35 years of service



Gregory D. Siamo
MCAF, electronic mechanic
30 years of service



Photos by Cpl. Roman Yurek

Civilian employees of the Marine Corps Air Facility aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were honored May 24 when they met significant milestones in their careers with MCAF. The eight employees were recognized by Col. John A. LeMoine, deputy commander, MCB Hawaii.



Clyde Y. Tamashiro
MCAF, air traffic control specialist
25 years of service

President reenlists 100 in White House ceremony

Sgt. 1st Class
Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — One hundred members from all five armed services raised their right hands May 23 and reupped in the White House East Room.

President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld both spoke before the mass reenlistment, with Rumsfeld telling the troops their task now is to “protect our country from the unknown, uncertain, unseen and unexpected.”

Before Army Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, administered the oath, Bush said he thought it was fitting for the service members to



Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Ash

One hundred servicemembers raise their right hands as they pledge more years of their lives to their respective srvices.

re-enlist in the White House.

“Every major military operation of the last 200 years was set in motion at the White House,” Bush said. “The cir-

cumstances have varied greatly, but no president has ever had reason to doubt the ability and commitment of the American armed forces.”

The president thanked the troops for their continued commitment to America and told them the nation owes them all the support necessary to fulfill that commitment.

“I have promised never to let that support waiver, never to take you for granted,” Bush said. “As long as I live under this roof, our country and our military will be prepared to meet any challenge the future may bring.”

Bush also took the opportunity to thank the family members who had come to witness the ceremony. “You’re not taking an oath, but you’re making a commitment,” he told them, “and along the way, all of you have had your share of sacrifices.”

Memorial Day 2001



A Helicopter with C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment hovers over the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and shines its searchlight toward the ground to signify the search for missing men at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Vietnam Veterans Candlelight ceremony at the Punchbowl.

Oahu honors fallen servicemembers

**Story and Photos by
Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible**
Combat Correspondent

Hawaii's military played a leading role in the Hawaii's Memorial Day celebrations through participating in numerous ceremonies Sunday and Monday.

The events began Sunday with the Nichirenshoshu Hokkeko ceremony at the Punchbowl. This ceremony featured a 20-minute Buddhist chant in honor and remembrance of fallen servicemembers, a joint-service colorguard and a Marine bugler playing Taps.

Afternoon sun greeted the Pacific-American Foundation's Roll Call of Honor in a remembrance ceremony that featured a joint-service colorguard and the reading of scrolls bearing the names of Pacific Island American veterans, Hawaiian veterans, Samoan veterans and Chamorro veterans.

As evening closed in and darkness began to fall, thunderous noise echoed from the Punchbowl Crater.

Hundreds of motorcycles, from Harleys to Hondas, made their way into the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as Vietnam Veterans post 10583 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars prepared to conduct their Memorial Day Candlelight ceremony.

The ceremony featured a joint-service color guard, invocation by a Navy chaplain, patriotic music by the Army's 25th Infantry Division Light Band, a keynote address by Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, commander, Marine Forces Pacific, a Marine 21-gun salute and a helicopter missing-man formation by pilots of C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment from Wheeler Army Airfield.

"Greater love hath no man that would lay down his life for his friend," said Lt. Gen. Libutti. "It is sad that we have likely not seen the end of the names etched in these walls in the name of freedom."

As the evening came to a close, candles flickered and engines revved in a loud, moving tribute to the fallen comrades of these Vietnam vets.



Candles were lit as a sign of respect and honor for fallen servicemembers during the Vietnam Veterans Candlelight ceremony Sunday at the Punchbowl.

Bright sun greeted the morning of Memorial Day at the Punchbowl for the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony.

The ceremony featured a joint-service color guard, a 21-gun salute in honor of fallen servicemembers and a Memorial Day address by Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris.

The events shifted to the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery for the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony.

Warm and sunny weather created a relaxed atmosphere for the ceremony featuring a musical prelude by the 111th Army Band of the Hawaii Army National Guard, a parade of flags by veterans organizations from the VFW to the Chosin Few, a joint-service color guard,

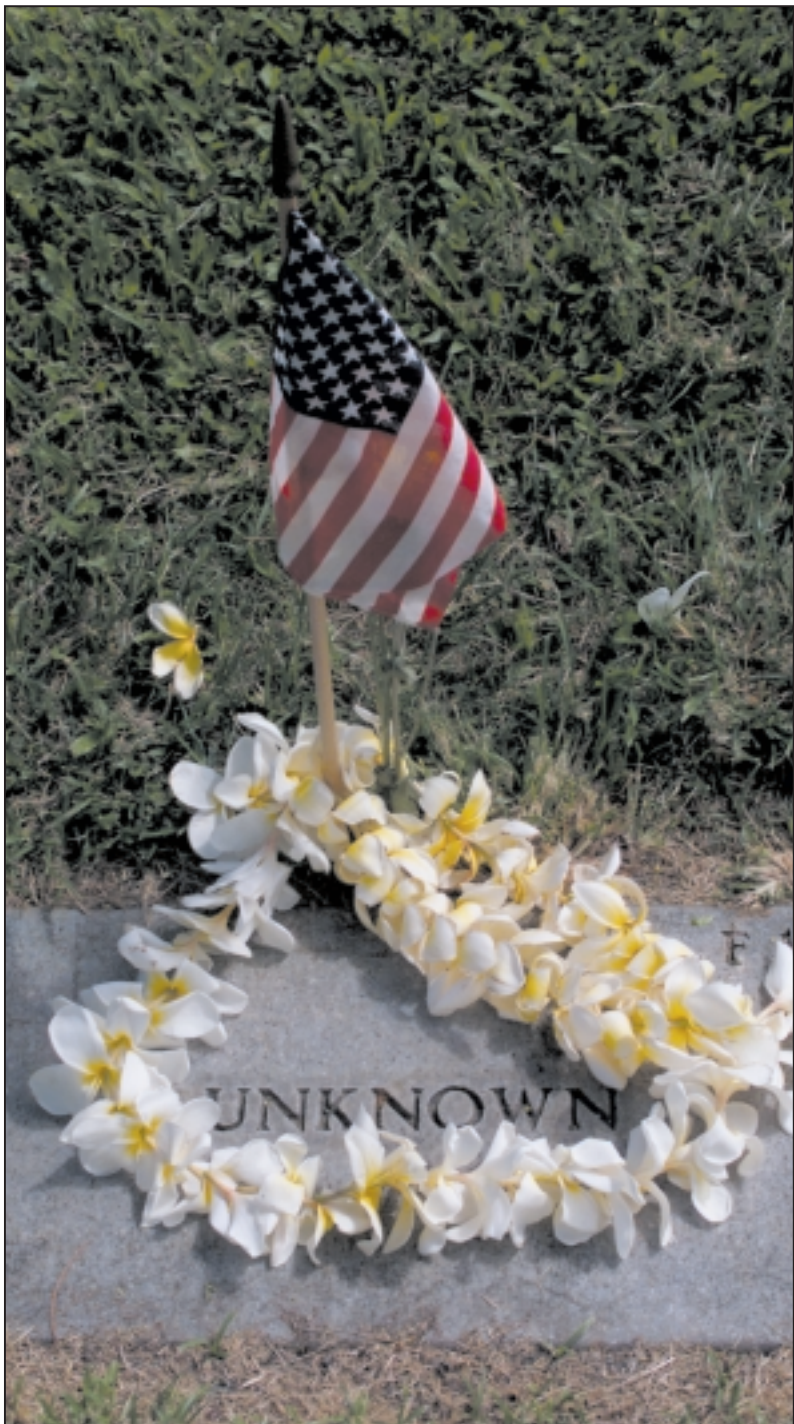
a keynote address by retired army general Fred C. Weyand, a Memorial Day address by Hawaii Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano, a 21-gun salute by the 154th Hawaii Air National Guard, echo taps by the 111th Army Band and a missing-man formation flyover by pilots of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463.

"This is a time to honor our fallen heroes, the men and women who have given their lives in the name of our freedom," said Cayetano.

Perhaps Gen. Weyand best summed-up the purpose of Memorial Day and the mood of the weekend when he said: "We give thanks to those who have served and sacrificed for this great nation of ours."



A Marine firing detail prepares to fire off a 21-gun salute to fallen servicemembers at the Vietnam Veterans Candlelight Ceremony at the Punchbowl Sunday



Flowers and an American Flag decorate the grave of an unidentified servicemember at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. American flags and flower leis were placed on every grave at the Punchbowl and the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

WORD ON THE STREET

What did you do to celebrate Memorial Day?



"I hung out with a really good friend and then spent some time on the beach.."

2nd Lt. Shawn Charchan
Supply Officer
HQ Battery, 1/12



"I went to Waikiki Beach for a barbe-cue."

Pfc. Elvia Gonzalez
Unit Diary Clerk
HQ Bn., MCB
Hawaii



"I was going to go to Pearl Harbor, but I didn't have a car and couldn't get a cab. So I just relaxed all day."

Pfc. Brandon Werle
Driver
Motor Transport
Co., CSSG-3



"I watched 'Pearl Harbor', which was a pretty good movie, then I went rock climbing."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian Crow
Corpsman
1/3 BAS



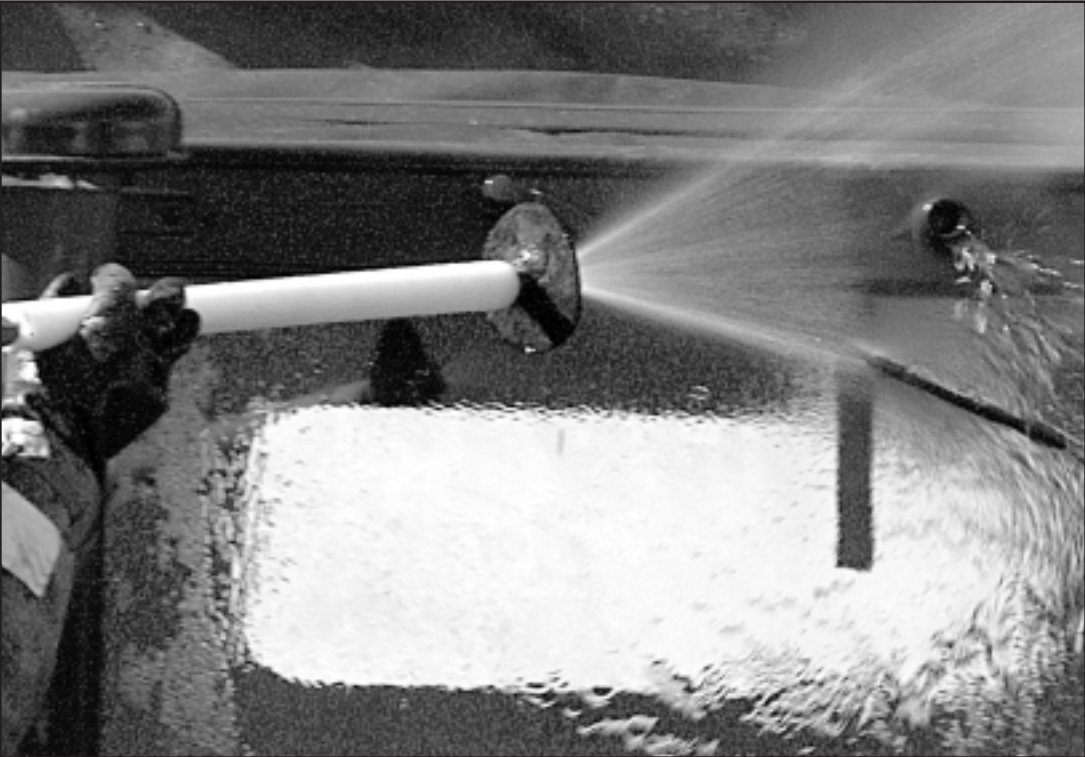
"I watched the History channel with my family. There were a number of specials on about the Green Berets, the Marine Corps and the Navy Seals. Then we watched a special on an archeological site where the Carolina sunk, a ship from the 1900's.."

Marie Jesus
Relocation
Specialist
MCCS Personal
Services

"I traveled with my family. We went to the North Shore to see some of the sites and then we went around the island."

Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Cosby
Regimental
Maintenance
Management Chief
HQ Co., 3rd
Marines





Cpl. Roman Yurek

Spray guns send out a total of 250 gallons of scorching, 110-degree water over a humvee as part of decontamination.

CSSG-3 Marines sharpen decontamination skills with vital NBC exercise

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

Nuclear, biological and chemical weapons have changed the way that Marines train for combat. Not only must Marines be proficient in their occupational specialty, but they also need to be able to do their job in a full mission orientated protective posture suit. In addition to operating in their protective equipment, Marines also must be able to set-up and operate a decontamination site for equipment, vehicles, and chemical casualties. Combat Service Support Group 3 conducted training May 23 and 24 which focused on decontaminating equipment and vehicles. More than 10 Marines from Maintenance Co., Motor Transport Co., Landing Support Co. and Supply Co. set up the decontamination site behind the CSSG-3 NBC Warehouse. The area they were operating in was a few yards short of a football field in length, but as large as that may seem, Sgt. Rex Johnson, an NBC specialist with Headquarters Co., CSSG-3, said a decontamination site is usually between 500 and 800 meters long. Marines were taught how to properly spray off the vehicles, scrub them, rinse them and

check for further contamination. “If these Marines ever have to do this and there is no NBC specialist around, they will know what to do,” said Johnson. At two of the sites, the humvee was sprayed with nearly 250 gallons of water. While it was sprayed, two other Marines scrubbed off dirt that could potentially be contaminated. For one vehicle to make it through the entire process took nearly an hour. and the Marines had only one vehicle to work with. In combat though, Johnson said there could conceivably be a long convoy waiting to go through the site. Some of the Marines have done training similar to this, but many were new to the concept of decontaminating a vehicle. For Sgt. Jeffery Arao, a supply administration and operations clerk for Supply Co., working with NBC is one of his additional duties. His unit assigned him to select Marines to participate in NBC training. Other Marines don’t get the same amount of experience with NBC. Privates first class Brandon Werle, a driver for Motor Transport Co., and Robert Burkheard, an artillery mechanic for



Cpl. Roman Yurek

A CSSG-3 Marine uses a brush to cleanse the vehicle of any contaminants not washed away during the “spray down” phase of decontamination. *Inset: An M256A1 detector kit was used to determine the degree of contamination on vehicles and equipment prior to decontamination.*

Maintenance Co., both had their first experience with NBC outside of their annual gas mask qualification. “It is good to know about something other than your military occupational specialty,” said Werle. The first time they ran through the site in full MOPP gear, it took 30 minutes, and many of the Marines said that they could probably only work for another 30 minutes before the heat would have become unbearable. Working hard in the restrictive suits and dealing with the heat helped the Marines better understand what it takes to decontaminate equipment, Johnson said, and that was the whole purpose of the training.

Supply Division retains 100 percent of staff

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

PEARL HARBOR – Six Sailors with the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, supply division reenlisted in a ceremony unlike any other aboard the USS Missouri Thursday.

The ship normally hosts frequent reenlistments, however, this ceremony logged a milestone.

One hundred percent of all eligible supply customer service personnel reenlisted for four years each, a total of 24 years.

“I have been in the service going on 24 years, and I have never seen a whole division reenlist,” said Cmdr. Robert T. Franks, MCB Hawaii supply officer.

Commander Franks credits the Sailors and their work environment for the positive retention rate in the division.

“More than anything, I credit the morale of the Sailors and the accomplishments they have made since coming here,” said Cmdr. Franks. “They are a very motivated and hard-charging group.”



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Captain Richard N. Hunte, base property officer-in-charge, congratulates Petty Officer 1st Class Robert E. Soellner, an aviation store keeper with MCB Hawaii Supply, on his reenlistment following the ceremony in which Hunte reenlisted him.

There are eight Sailors in the division: six reenlisted aboard the Missouri Thursday; one reenlisted prior to the scheduling of the ceremony; and the last, a chief petty officer, is no longer eligible for reenlistment and is looking forward to retirement.

The location of the ceremony was chosen for very nostalgic reasons, according to Cmdr. Franks.

“It was the Sailors’ choice to reenlist on the Missouri,” said Cmdr. Franks.

See REENLISTMENT, A-7

Marines, Army lead in Martial Arts training

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps and the Army — America’s land combat forces — are the leaders among the services in teaching troops hand-to-hand combat and martial arts skills.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Jones last year set a goal that all Marines would receive training in entry-level martial arts skills and be given the opportunity to achieve higher levels of expertise.

On March 20, Jones presented tan belts to the first officer basic school graduates to complete initial martial arts training at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Eventually, “all Marines, regardless of age, sex, rank or job will do this training,” said Lt. Col. George H. Bristol, director of the Marines’ martial arts program at the Combat Development Center at Quantico.

The program, evolved from a May 2000 test study, “is designed to further develop the complete warrior that has always been the United

States Marine Corps,” he said.

Marines’ martial arts training features “a blend of proven disciplines including judo, karate and jujitsu, and bayonet and knife-fighting techniques,” said 1st Lt. Jesse L. Sjoberg, Bristol’s deputy.

Bristol, who has 35 years of martial arts experience, said the training is necessary because of changing world events.

“Right now, the world environment is more uncertain than it has ever been,” he said. “Within a few days, a situation can escalate from humanitarian missions to full-scale combat.” Bristol said the martial arts program integrates three warrior disciplines:

- Mental discipline: The development of the combat mindset and the study of the art of war.

- Character discipline: The firm integration of ethics, values, integrity and leadership.

- Physical discipline, comprised of fighting techniques with rifle and bayonet, bladed weapons, weapons of opportunity (stick, club, gun), and unarmed combat; combative conditioning — the



Marine Corps Photo

Staff Sgt. Dema Lege (left) and Maj. Kelly Heatherman practice unarmed strikes at MCB Quantico, Va.

ability to fight while fatigued in a combat environment; and combat sports — boxing, wrestling, and wooden trainer bayonet fighting.

The Marines’ martial arts training is composed of striking, grappling and weapons fighting skills, Bristol said.

All Marines are required to earn a tan belt, representing entry-level training, he said.

Subsequent higher awards of gray, green, brown and six degrees of black belts can also be earned.

The program develops confidence not only in individual Marine combat skills, Bristol said, “but also in the skills of your fellow Marines,” because battlefield combat requires teamwork. Marines who learn lethal combat skills are expected — and required — to use them responsibly, he said.

“The program teaches the ability to kill, but it is also tightly balanced with ethics,” Bristol said, as part of the Corps’ definition of a warrior.

“A Marine (is) highly skilled in lethal technique who can function appropriately in any environment. That includes the battlefield to his or her place as a citizen in society,” he said.

Army recruits en route to become infantrymen at Fort

Benning, Ga., get 15 hours of hand-to-hand combat instruction over 14 weeks as part of the infantry’s One Station Unit Training program, said installation spokesperson Elsie Jackson. Troops attending the post’s elite Ranger School receive an additional 18 hours of hand-to-hand combative training, including boxing, she added.

Army Special Forces students at Fort Bragg, N.C., receive extensive hand-to-hand combat training, said Carol P. Darby, spokesperson for U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg.

“Over a period of about one year, students in the Special Forces qualification course receive about 30 to 40 hours of combative training,” Darby said. This training, she added, begins with basic hand-to-hand moves and advances as students progress through the qualification course.

The Navy and Air Force also provide hand-to-hand and martial arts training, but normally only for members of special operations and law enforcement units.

Air Force and Navy recruits don’t receive bayonet or hand-to-hand combat training, according to service officials.



Marine Corps Photo

Sgt. Byron Bell (left) and Sgt. Kevin Murphy tangle with their wooden rifles during bayonet training at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Birthday girl nets gifts for homeless

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

More than 70 teenagers attended the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, base swimming pool-hosted “Sweet 16” birthday party Friday.

By the end of the party, though, the birthday girl had received no presents for herself.

The twist on this party was that 16-year-old Michelle Collins didn’t want any presents. She asked for non-perishable items, toiletries, clothes, blankets and towels. Sounds like a strange wish list for a 16-year-old, but not so strange for the people who will be receiving these gifts.

Collins plans on turning over her birthday bounty to homeless families through the Institute for Human Services homeless shelter. “I knew a big crowd

would be coming to the party and I just didn’t feel that I needed all those presents,” she said.

Before her birthday, Collins went to her mother with an idea. She suggested that instead of asking for presents for herself, she would try to help the homeless.

She got in touch with her

church leadership and they suggested three charities that would appreciate all the help she could give. Michelle contacted all three of them and decided to work with the Institute for Human Services. The agency expressed great interest in the opportunity and gratitude to Michelle for her thoughtfulness.

The party included a disc jockey, food catered by the Officers’ Club, swimming and a lot of fun, according to Collins. “The party was really a lot of fun. It was awesome.”

The guests kept pouring in to congratulate the birthday girl and give their gifts for the homeless.

By the end of the night, the gift table was overflowing. Presents were stacked on top of it, underneath it and all around it.

“The number of gifts the kids brought was incredible,” said Michelle’s mother, Cindy Collins.

The success of the party only goes to show that it doesn’t take gifts to make a good birthday party, said Collins. Everyone had fun at the party and will feel better knowing they helped someone else.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Collins

Michelle Collins sits amongst several “gifts” she received during her “Sweet 16” birthday party. The gifts will be donated to local homeless families.

REENLISTMENT, *From* A-5

“It was probably in remembrance of and to carry on the traditions of the Sailors of the past.”

All of the reenlisted Sailors of the supply customer service division will be transferring to new duty stations within the next few months to broaden their horizons and experience more of the Navy.

Wherever they go, the Sailors of the MCB Hawaii Supply customer service division will be forever bonded with their K-Bay shipmates after their remarkable retention achievement.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

24th MEU sharpens spear during Exercise ‘Trident D’Or’

Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
24th MEU Public Affairs

CAPO TEULADA, Sardinia, Italy — While some Marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) are on their way to operations in the Black Sea, most are taking part in Exercise TRIDENT D’OR - a cross training exercise involving military servicemembers from France, Italy, Spain and the United States.

Marines and Sailors of the 24th MEU (SOC) are trading skills and learning the cultural differences in other Nations’ militaries while they sharpen the skills they’ve perfected over the last six months.

For the Marines this is a rare opportunity to work with soldiers from the fabled French Foreign Legion.

According to Cpl. Bruce Boyington, 60mm Mortar Section Leader, BLT 2/8, this is a great opportunity to improve in certain areas.

“It’s interesting to see that we can learn from them and in return show other nations better ways of doing some things,” said Boyington.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Narvaiz, Light Armored Reconnaissance Scout, LAR Platoon, BLT 2/8, is on

his first deployment and finds it enjoyable so far.

“Cross training with other nations has been the best part of this training so far,” said Narvaiz. “You can’t get this kind of training, with so many cultural differences back at home.”

In addition to the Foreign Legion, Spanish Marines and the Italian San Marco Brigade are taking part in the exercise.

“I’m having a good time trading things with the other countries,” said Cpl. Aaron Shumate, Light Armored Vehicle Crewman Gunner, LAR Platoon. “This type of training offers us an experience that’s a little more different than what we get back in the states.”

The firepower behind the 24th MEU (SOC) is not the only aspect of the MEU that continues to sharpen.

Members of the MEU Service Support Group 24 are also enhancing their capabilities to provide continuous support to MEU personnel.

Lance Cpl. Charles Moore, Wrecker Operator, MSSG 24, recovered three large vehicles stuck in mud during the first 24 hours of training.

In just the second day of training, Sgt. Ron Geitgey, Hygiene



Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

Marines with the 24th MEU(SOC) perform squad rushes on the Sardinian countryside during Exercise Trident D’Or, a cross-training exercise involving military branches from France, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

Equipment Operator, was already producing up to 600 gallons of water per hour for distribution to the different units.

“We’ve got distribution tanks set

up throughout the bivouac site and the trucks come over here to fill up and then disburse the water to where it’s needed,” said Geitgey.

Once the 24th MEU (SOC) com-

pletes this exercise, it turns toward the next exercise - ALEXANDER THE GREAT. *Follow the 24th MEU (SOC) on their website at www.usmc.mil/24meu.*

TRICARE works to ‘beef up’ customer services

**Sgt. 1st Class
Kathleen T. Rhem**
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — In December 1999, TRICARE was facing 30,535 claims still unpaid after 60 days. By March 2001, the grand total rode at four — a 99.99 percent drop.

“Our feedback from senior line and enlisted leadership is that the field is reporting far, far fewer problems with TRICARE,” said Air Force Col. Frank Cumberland. “Military community town hall meetings used to be all about TRICARE, but now people are more concerned with other quality of life issues. TRICARE is seen as a program that people like — especially as they have more experience using it.”

Cumberland is director of communications and customer service for the TRICARE Management Activity here. He said improvements in claims processing is just one example of

TRICARE’s commitment to customer service.

“We try to benchmark what we’re doing on the customer service side with what’s going on in industry,” Cumberland said. Compared with civilian health maintenance organization statistics, TRICARE fares well.

The American Medical Association News reported in the Nov. 6, 2000, issue that “38 percent of physician practices reported that it takes, on average, more than 45 days to receive payment” on a claim. The same publication had reported in March 2000 that uncontested claims took insurers an average of 69 days to pay.

TRICARE’s average turnaround now is 12 days, Cumberland said.

The kick-off of the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program April 1 was “maybe the biggest test ever from a customer-service standpoint,” he said. The program added 1.5 million new beneficiaries to the TRICARE system overnight

and, by all accounts, went off without a hitch.

The start of the new program was also a huge communications success, Cumberland said. “The communications staff had to work hard ahead of time so people knew what to do on the day the program began,” he said.

Officials hope recent improvements to the TRICARE benefit, such as TRICARE for Life, the Senior Pharmacy Program, TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members and elimination of co-payments for active-duty family members, will have a positive impact on retention as well.

“As individuals sit around the kitchen table and debate the pros and cons of going or staying in the military, we want them to factor TRICARE in,” Cumberland said. “The changes that have happened in the past year are as significant a benefit enhancement as anything I have ever seen in the military.”

MPs learn to ‘sniff out’ illegal drugs

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

In its “war against drugs,” the MCB Hawaii Military Police Department uses dogs trained to locate hidden contraband. Until recently, an individual Marine without one of the drug-sniffing dogs had difficulty searching a suspected drug user’s car or home though because of a lack of probable cause.

On May 15 and 22, MPs learned how to identify the smell of marijuana and other drugs during a controlled burn and contraband class.

“Sometimes military police go by a car near the reef and get a smell of something and are unsure what it is,” said Staff Sgt. Maynard Amat, field training officer for the company.

“The controlled burn allows the MPs to recognize the scent of controlled substances when they approach a vehicle,” said Cpl. K.B. Bane, an investigator for the Criminal Investigation Division. “If

anyone questions the Marine’s determination of probable cause, the Marine’s service record book has an entry verifying participation in the controlled burn training.”

This sort of training has not been conducted within the company for more than five years, according to 2nd Lt. David Wagner, MP platoon commander.

Wagner added that since the legal department has not set a specific number of times per year the Marine must do the training, the plan is to familiarize MPs once a year with the smell of marijuana.

Now, each MP can use their nose to find marijuana and the person using it. The controlled burn entry in the training section of their SRB will give them probable cause to search a vehicle or residence.

For some MPs, this was the first time they have ever seen or smelled marijuana.

“It’s nothing like I have ever smelled

before,” said Sgt. Melinda Laborde, a platoon sergeant for the company. “It is hard to describe...it had a sweet burning smell.”

Amat told all the Marines that the amount of marijuana they were smelling was not enough to affect their system.

“In law enforcement, you do have to be exposed to drugs,” Amat added. That includes knowing what the drug looks like, knowing how it smells, how it is packaged, and how it is made, he continued. Along with learning to recognize the smell of this drug, MPs were also given classes about other drugs such as cocaine, methanphetamines, and many of the other drugs that are popular today, said Amat.

The knowledge gained with the controlled burn and the narcotics classes will help them do their job more efficiently, Amat added, and it gives them more tools to use in their war against drug use.

SecDef commends technological transition

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — Servicemembers are changing the military to meet the threats of the 21st century, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during Armed Forces Day ceremonies.

To start the ceremonies for the two-day Joint Service Open House, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Henry Shelton presented medals to the crew of the Navy EP-3 electronic surveillance aircraft that was hit by a Chinese fighter near Hainan Island March 31.

Rumsfeld said military members today serve during an “extraordinary moment of opportunity” and transition.

“You’re the ones who wake up each morning and voluntarily put your lives at risk so that all of your fellow citizens can go about their days in peace and freedom,” he said. “Whether at any moment you man an EP-3, a ship, a tank or an office, each of you has made a conscious decision to serve.”

He said military members work long hours and military families are often separated from each other.

“It’s because you stand ready to respond at a moment’s notice if any should threaten our country, that our nation is able to contribute to peace and stability in this still dangerous and untidy world,” he said. “The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them pose new challenges.”

“We may not know precisely who our adversaries may be or precisely what challenges they may pose,

but we do know that challenges to freedom are unending,” he said.

“You are building the armed forces for the 21st century that must deter and defend and prevail against the threats of this new era so that we, by our vigilance, can extend the peace well into this new century.”

Rumsfeld said this new era requires that service members take new risks and embrace new openness.

“Your government must return the honor that you and

your families offer through your service, by treating you with the respect, the admiration and the gratitude that you deserve,” he said. “That’s why President Bush is asking Congress for increased military pay and benefits and housing.

“Our policies must recognize that we no longer have a conscript force of single men, but a proud all-volunteer force made up of men and women with families of single parents and of dual-career couples.”

Rumsfeld said that much time is spent debating what the country can afford to spend on the armed forces. “But we don’t spend on you, we invest in you,” he said. “The men and women of our armed forces aren’t a drain on our economic strength; you safeguard it. You’re not a burden on our economy; you are the critical foundation of its growth. Our peace dividend comes from the security you provide and the prosperity you make possible.”

PRESIDENT, *From* A-1

direction of a mighty ship. All the more reason for research and development and all the more reason to get started right away.”

But new technologies need new ideas and, more importantly, a willingness to experiment. “We cannot transform our military using old weapons and old plans,” he said. “Nor can we do it with an old mindset that frustrates the creativity and entrepreneurship that a 21st Century military will need.”

Bush said creativity and imaginative thinking are America’s great competitive advantages. “Today, I call upon you to seize and to join this tradition of creativity and innovation,” he said to the graduating midshipmen. “Our national and military leaders owe you a culture that supports innovation and a system that rewards it.”

He said officers in a 21st Century U.S. military must think “big thoughts” and examine new approaches to problems. “If you pick up this mantle some of your ideas may fail, but we need to give you this freedom and we will,” Bush said. “It is from your failures that we will learn and acquire the knowl-

edge that will make successful innovation possible. “As president I am committed to fostering a military culture where intelligent risk-taking and forward thinking are rewarded, not dreaded,” he continued. “And I’m committed to ensuring that visionary leaders that take risks are recognized and promoted.”

But using the military rests on American values. Bush said the academy experience has prepared these new officers to call on these values in times of crisis.

“You leave here ... knowing a great truth that some in life never discover: that values are important,” he said. “You understand that life cannot be lived by casual commitments and shallow creeds.

You understand that no one can be neutral between right and wrong, tyranny and freedom, cynicism and honor. And you know that sometimes the greatest victories are won on the private battlefields of conscience.

“Over time your weapons and methods will change, but your values will not. And because of this you contribute, not only to the military might of our country, but to its meaning and conscience and soul.”

LUNCHEON, *From* A-1

Officers Association annually presents the Doleman Award, in honor of the late Lt. Gen. Edgar Doleman, U.S. Army. It is presented to a retired military officer who has made significant contributions to the community since his or her retirement from active duty.

This year’s Doleman award went to Lt. Cmdr. Staley Nicholls, U.S. Navy (retired).

Lieutenant Commander Nicholls, has volunteered with the Institute of Human Services, with the Retired Activity Office at Pearl Harbor, and with numerous other organizations.

Each year the Chamber of Commerce’s Aloha Spirit Award recognizes those people in the community who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

These people offer the gifts of time, energy and often times, hard labor to make Hawaii a better place to live.

The recipient of this year’s Aloha Spirit Award was Keith Haugen, a local entertainer, who sang the entire trilogy of “War and Peace” at the Military Appreciation Concert during the Combined Military Band Concert on May 19.

The keynote addresses of the luncheon were given by Lieutenant General Frank Libutti, Commander, Marine Forces Pacific, and Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Command.

Lt. Gen. Libutti took time during his speech to recognized five Hawaii Marines who were making a positive impact in the community.

Lance Corporal Carol Cardona, an administrative clerk for MCB Hawaii, was recognized for her work with the Adopt-A-School program, and the restoration of the Kailua library.

Corporal Matthew Q. Bounds, an ordnance technician with 1st Marine Air Wing Aviation Support Element, volunteered his free time to coaching youth inline hockey teams.

Sergeant Jeremy Hinkhouse, a supply warehouse chief for 1st Radio Battalion, gave time to the Armed Forces YMCA, Hawaiian Food Bank, Castle High School Marine JROTC program and elementary school physical fitness program.

Sergeant Jose R. Palos-Chavez, an administration chief for Marine Forces Pacific personnel office, was recognized for his efforts during the Hawaii State Legislature during the past presidential election, and his efforts to clean up Hanauma Bay Nature Park.

Finally, Sgt. Ryan D. Walker, an aviation logistics data analyst with MarForPac, worked with the “Civil Air Patrol” on Hickam Air Force Base, and held a seat on the Single Marine and Sailor Program committee.

“These young men and women are just a small sample of the great people doing great things in out adopted home of Hawaii,” said Lt. Gen. Libutti. “I’m proud of each of you. Keep up the good work, and Semper Parati!”

Admiral Blair expressed many of the same thoughts of military and community cohesion during his speech.

Admiral Blair reflected on the world, and the military, 25 years ago when his career

in the Navy was 10 years into his Naval career.

“With the end of the draft, the beginning of our all-volunteer military, and the fall of our embassy in Saigon, the respect accorded the U.S. armed forces was at an all-time low, including our own self-respect,” said Blair. “The world has swung back dramatically since then, in a few cases for the worst, but mostly for the better.”

He took time to note significant events taking place in 1976; the Soviet boycott of the Olympics, the Nation’s bicentennial and the Cincinnati Reds winning the World Series were just some of the highlights he spoke of.

The Commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command then focused on the relationship Hawaii has with its military counterparts.

“I dare anyone, anywhere, to top the standard that Hawaii has set during this Military Appreciation Week,” Admiral Blair proudly boasted. “There is simply no better place in the world to be on the receiving end of appreciation.”

To finish his speech Admiral Blair recited a Letterman-like top 10 list of reason why the military is appreciated in Hawaii. A couple of the top ten reasons Admiral Blair used tickled

the audience’s funny bone.

“You’re famous for the spirit of “Aloha”, and face it, we’re generally pretty lovable guys and gals,” he said of reason number 10. “Plus, if you don’t like us, just wait a couple of years and we’ll move away.”

For the majority of the list though he related pertinent facts on why the relationship between Hawaii and its military community work well together, and why it will continue to uphold that relationship for years to come.

Admiral Blair finished his speech by giving his own thoughts on the servicemembers of the Pacific Command and the nation they support.

“It’s these servicemembers sitting around you – young men and women who put on the uniform everyday to serve their country,” said Admiral Blair. “They do it for their own reasons - some personal, some patriotic – but really their primary reward is simply the right to be called soldiers, Sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.”

“They are the ones who are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for our country if necessary,” he added. “They’re also my number one reason for knowing that our armed forces are the best in the world.”

Scout’s honor



Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Hongell

Nearly 1,000 Boy Scouts from across the island gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater Sunday in honor of Memorial Day ceremonies. Scouts from Pack 225 from Kaneohe Bay, placed flags and leis on the graves of fallen servicemembers buried at the cemetery.